

FACT SHEET



Missouri Electric Works Cape Girardeau, Missouri

September 1999

MEW SOIL TREATMENT UNIT ON SITE

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 continues to oversee the remedial action activities at the Missouri Electric Works (MEW) site in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The remedial action for the contaminated soils has started. Air monitors have been installed around the site. The purpose of the air monitors is to obtain information, about what the air contains, both before and during operation of the soil treatment unit at the site. The Low Temperature Thermal Desorption (LTTD) unit has been assembled at the site. The 76-foot stack was constructed on September 2, 1999. The entire soil treatment activity should be completed by the end of this year.

Background

The MEW site is located at 824 South Kingshighway in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. MEW conducted a motor and transformer repair and sales business from 1954 until 1992. EPA conducted several site investigations. The investigations evaluated the extent and magnitude of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination in the soil. The maximum concentration of PCB contamination found on the site was 58,000

parts per million (ppm). The site was listed on EPA's National Priorities List in February 1990.

A Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in September 1990 selecting a remedy for the site. EPA and a group of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) entered into a consent decree to address the site cleanup. The PRPs performed additional work after the ROD was issued. As a result of that work, PCB contaminated ground water was discovered. The PRPs will conduct the additional ground water investigations under a consent decree with EPA. The ground water investigations will start in the spring of 2000.

Site Activities

Williams Environmental, the PRP's contractor, has been working on the site since April 1999. They cleared the site in preparation for the LTTD unit in July 1999. The LTTD unit was brought to the site and assembled in late August. The last component of the LTTD unit, the 76-foot stack, was put up on September 2, 1999. The LTTD unit will be used to treat the soils with PCBs above 10 ppm.

“Shake-down” testing of the LTTD unit, using clean soils, is expected to begin the week of September 13, 1999. “Shake-down” testing is performed to verify that the LTTD unit is both operational and functional after mobilization and assembly. A Performance Test, will be conducted to ensure that the LTTD unit can treat the soil to the specified standards. The test is expected to be conducted in October 1999.

Once the unit’s testing is completed, the unit will be put in full operation. The entire soil treatment activity should be completed by the end of this year. Once the soil treatment is completed, the LTTD will be dismantled and removed from the site. All site work is being done under EPA and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources’ oversight.

Smelterville area

EPA recently received information that suggested PCB contaminated oil, may have been sprayed, on some streets, in the Smelterville area of Cape Girardeau. Based on this information, EPA took soil samples in the area. EPA’s sample results indicated no PCB concentrations greater than 1 ppm. EPA has determined, based on the sample results, that no further action is necessary in the Smeltervillw area.

Additional Information

If you need additional information, the MEW Administrative Record is available for public review. The Administrative Record contains relevant site information. The Administrative Record is available at the Cape Girardeau Public Library, 711 N. Clark Street, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, during normal business hours.

If you have questions about this site, please contact:

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